



Tome I, fasc. No. 2

JANUARY, 1947

2 A. E. (2nd Year of Atomic Energy)

## Greetings at the New Year From the Officers and Ye Almanack's Editor

Driving to work through a park reservation, along empty white roads lined with fir trees gleaming darkly against a wintry blue sky, is such a change from elbowing through grey subway crowds in Manhattan's rush-hours that one has leisure for reflection and self-examination—a good basis for those New Year's resolutions. On one dazzling morning Ye Editor was in process of pursuing such thoughts, while the speedometer unbeknownst climbed higher and higher, when a policeman appeared out of the Nowhere and accused her of breaking the speed-laws. "What were ye thinking of?" he shouted, whereupon Ye Editor promptly answered:

### "On Being the Good Librarian"

(A Check-List of Some Opportunities)

and, as later, the traffic court judge made her write them down as a penalty, this check-list is presented herewith in the hope that it will get other librarians

out of predicaments, at least with their consciences.

The Librarian as Educator: Has my work today really added to the sum of someone's total fund of knowledge?

The Librarian as Research Catalyst: Have I spurred on the pursuit of a research problem or an experiment that had come to a stop, by finding the apt reference, giving an alternate method, or a new line of approach?

The Librarian as Scientist: Do I have a scientific hobby, a subject of personal interest and research which I follow and study intensively and know the latest information, on which I can claim to be a "Technical Expert"?

The Librarian as Leader: Do I inspire my staff with interest and enthusiasm to grow in our profession?

The Librarian as Good Housekeeper: Is everything

ship-shape and clean in my library, or do clouds of dust rise whenever someone removes a book from my shelves?

The Librarian as Democrat: Am I as quick to give service, as persistent in chasing down a reference for the Laboratory Assistant as I am for the Research Director?

The Librarian as Administrator: Do I help my staff, by explaining procedures adequately, do I share my professional and technical and company knowledge with them so that an esprit de-corp is built in the library?

The Librarian as a Professional Worker: Do I really belong to my professional organization, attend meetings and am I taking an active hand in S.L.A. projects, such as the S-T Manual?!!

## AUTUMN SOLSTICE

(I.)

### The Chemical Show Exhibit

The S.L.A. Science-Technology Group Exhibit at the Chemical Show on September 8-12th was an overwhelming success. A full report of its history, containing pictures of the booth, a list of material on display and record of publicity it received (the whole intended to serve as a manual for future exhibit committees) is on file at National Headquarters and with Mr. Robert Christ, National Publicity Chairman.

There were 325 visitors signing the guest book and many more crowding the booth at all times. The visitors came from all over the United States and from foreign countries and all asked many questions such as: how to find technical librarians; how much to pay them; does the S.L.A. have a consulting service on organizing new libraries; etc. Many went away with a knowledge of S.L.A. and its activities for the first time, and all went away with an impressive appreciation of the contribution of Technical Libraries in industry. Needless to say, "Pesticus Librarius" present in print and "in person" as lovely glass model was the hit of the show!

The Indiana Chapter of S.L.A. and Indiana Library Association used the exhibits at their joint meeting on November 6-7th and the material was shown

at a vocational conference at Purdue University by Mrs. I. Strieby when she talked on Library Science. It has also been requested for showing at the joint meetings of the A.L.A. and California Library Association in June, 1947, and for the A.C.S. Chemical Exposition in San Francisco October, 1947.

Seen at the Exhibit: Mr. Watson Davis, noted science writer and editor of Science Newsletter, reading "Ye Almanack" with interest and chuckling over our home-made "Alchemical Fable."

(II.)

### Aeronautics Library Conference

The Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, Inc., 2 E. 64th Street, New York City, held a one-day conference October 7th on Aeronautical Library Research Facilities. Maurice H. Smith, Librarian, spoke on "Some Resources and Methods of the Institute Libraries." A question forum was conducted and at lunch Mr. John A. Sizer, British Liaison Office Representative at Wright Field, spoke on "British Methods of Handling Technical Documents." The purpose of the conference was to discuss expansion of I.A.S. libraries services.

(III.)

### Science Writing Discussion Panel

The New Jersey Library Association at their second Fall meeting in Newark had a panel discussion on "What Constitutes the Writing of Science." Dr. Gerald Wendt, Editor of the new "Science Illustrated," was chief speaker. Robert D. Potter, Science Editor of The American Weekly, and Reginald R. Hawkins of the Science-Technology Division of the New York Public Library were the speakers. Miss Marion Manley, Newark Business Branch Librarian, was moderator of the discussion.

(IV.)

### Symposium on Technical Library Techniques

The American Chemical Society meeting, September 8th and 9th, at Chicago, was attended by Miss L. Lewton, and Miss G. Little, Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Science-Technology Group. Seen also at the meetings were Maude Ell-

wood, formerly Dow Co. Librarian; Lucille Jackson, Editor of S-T Manual; Dr. Francis Fitzgerald, Librarian of Quarter Master General, and Morris D. Schoengold of Standard Oil Development Co. Library. Punched Cards were talked about from 9 a.m. actually till 12 p.m., with the chemists showing definite symptoms of being "punch drunk." Abstracts of the papers given were made and are available from the S-T Chairman. At a special evening session a Technical Library, Patents and Editors section of the Division of Chemical Education was proposed to be formed. The S-T Chairman offered the co-operation of our group to the Chairman of A.C.S. Division of Chemical Education for a joint meeting at the next session of the American Chemical Society in the Spring.

(V.)

### **Punched Cards Committee**

In view of the great interest shown at the Am. Chem. Soc. meetings in Punched Cards as a new library technique for handling various technical data it behooves our group as librarians not to remain behind the chemists in the study and evaluation of this technique. Dr. Francis F. Fitzgerald was therefore appointed Chairman of an *S-T Punched Card Committee* to survey how much, and for what purpose, this method has been actually used by Science-Technology librarians. Questions on which he wishes information from the membership are incorporated in the attached questionnaire on library practices. Results of these answers will guide him in reporting the information to the American Chemical Society next Spring and may well affect important developments, such as a proposal to issue a punched card edition of Chemical Abstracts.

In the meantime the officers of S-T Group are making what may be the first official application of punched cards by S.L.A. in constructing our membership list on punched cards, classifying the membership regionally, by type of library and by subject of library. Up to now, in accord with the old proverb that "Shoemaker's children go unshod," our membership card file was not at all "representative of our library practices."

On Jan. 6th, the N. Y. Chapter S-T Group held a meeting featuring Punched Card methods. Repre-

sentatives of McBee Keysort and I.B.M. methods demonstrated the machines and cards, and Dr. English of Am. Cyanamid Co. spoke on "Use of Punched Cards in Classifying Chemotherapeutic Information."

(VI.)

### **Executive Board and Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting**

The quarterly meeting of the Executive Board and Advisory Council of the Special Libraries Association at New York on October 26th was attended by the Science-Technology Chairman who presented the case for reconsideration of finances of our group by better allotments of funds received from secondary affiliation members, and the financing of printing and mailing of the group bulletin. The possibility of joint projects and greater program cooperation with the Biological Sciences Group was also presented. This entire question of group interests and better line-up of chapter affiliations is under consideration by the "Committee of Five," a national committee of which Irene Strieby is Chairman. This committee will shortly report to the Executive Board its advice on these matters, and it is hoped "Ye Almanack" can then be regularly published as a quarterly and mailed without relying on shoe-string bargaining with printer, the charity of our officer's firm connections, and the valiant volunteers of the enthusiastic Washington, D. C., Chapter, who are making the mailing of this copy possible, as they did that of the first issue, by stuffing 1650 envelopes by hand!

(VII.)

### **Chemistry Section Reports Their Project Accomplished**

Elizabeth Bowerman, Chairman of the Chemistry Section of the S-T Group, reports that the Union List of Serials of Chemistry Libraries has been completed and is now at the printers. Congratulations to the Chemistry Section! And one project off the slate—wish we could live long enough to write the same for our national project—the S-T Manual!

## S-T MANUAL

### Progress Report on the S-T Manual

Extra! Extra! Progress is actually being made! The working program consisted in first developing an outline from which assignments of chapters or sections for writing were made. To date, this outline has been set up, and certain chapters have been assigned to volunteer writers who are supposedly diligently working on them. Here the Manual editor pauses to direct personal inquiries to these authors—"will you please communicate some word of your progress?" No one of us actually "has time" to spend on such a project, though we all do contrive to allot a portion of our efforts to such activities. Whether or not the Manual will be accomplished in this way this time, considering that previous attempts were conducted in the same way and in view of present experience, is by no means assured. It is up to you — (1) to answer the questionnaire and (2) to write your chapter if you undertook to do so. Matters of policy regarding the relationship between the general and the S-T Manuals are being worked out. Whether each Group Manual should be complete in itself or whether the group publication should be chiefly supplementary to a general S.L.A. Manual is not yet clear. However, we are still determined that the S-T Manual will be in completed manuscript form by the June convention, either to be published as a separate or as an appendix to the S.L.A. Manual.

Paula M. Strain of U. S. Naval Photographic Intelligence Center, Washington, D. C., has been named as Chairman of a Fact-Finding Committee on Representative Technical Library Procedure to help the S-T Manual. She devised the enclosed questionnaire which we hope you will take pen-in-hand at once to answer. We want our Group Manual to be representative of accepted library practice in the group and so we need *your* answers to the questionnaire, if our manual is to be democratic, universal and representative and not just the opinions of a few masterminds! The Fact-finding Committee sends you the following directions.

### About the Enclosed "Questionnaire"

The questionnaire enclosed with *Ye Almanack* isn't intended to work you to death. Through it, Science-Tech group hopes to get enough information on cur-

rent techniques in special libraries to make writing the various sections of the *Science-Technology Manual* easier and the contents more practical. In fact, it's just a handy way of collecting raw material. So, please cooperate and fill it out today.

It isn't as long as it looks: we timed filling it out and it took about thirty minutes. You can spare that as your share in the *Manual* can't you?

All you have to do is check the questions or answers that apply to you. If three answers to one question apply—that's fine, check all three. Sometimes, all the possible answers couldn't be anticipated, so space was left to fill in—please make those answers as brief as possible. If you'd like to explain a point in detail, why don't you suggest the author of that particular section contact you directly? Or ask the committee to forward a separate explanation to him? But don't go into detail on the Checklist: you'll get so involved you won't return it. And we need plenty of returns, and we want them promptly!

We suggest you read the Checklist through, pencil in hand, checking everything you can. You'll find you've practically answered the questionnaire. If you haven't time then to fill in the write-in answers, mail the Checklist back anyhow.

The thing is, the Committee wants to compile the results and get them into the hands of the section writers right away, so the authors can get rough drafts of their sections turned out by early Spring.

Please return the Checklist by January 20, or as soon thereafter as possible. Mail it to P. M. Strain, Photographic Interpretation Center, USN Receiving Station, Washington 25, D. C. Thank you.

Margaret Firth, *United Shoe Machinery Co.*  
Lola Wyckoff, *Federal Security Administration*  
Paula Strain, *U.S.N. Photographic Interpretation Center, Chairman.*

Pittsburgh Science-Technology Group held a meeting on November 7th on staff manuals. Lucille Jackson, Editor of S-T Manual, was Chairman of the meeting and much information helpful to the Manual Project was brought to light.

The Science-Technology Chairman spoke at the first meeting of the season of the New York Chapter S-T group on November 19th on the plans of the



national group for the year—about 50 members were present. Needless to say the Manual was presented as our very first task, duty and obligation, and several suggestions for other new projects from enthusiastic idea producers were parried off in favor of nursing along the Manual. Judging from the interest displayed and the questions asked a 99.9% response to the questionnaire is expected from the New York region at any rate.

## LOCAL SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY GROUP CHAIRMEN

A survey of Local S-T Group Chairmen has been completed by Miss Watson, Secretary of the national group, as follows:

Michigan Chapter: Eleanor V. Wright, Chrysler Corp., 12800 Oakland Ave., Highland Park 3, Mich.

Western N. Y. Chapter: Catherine D. Mack, Corning Glass Works, Corning, N. Y. (entire chapter is S-T)

California, Southern Chapter: Johanna E. Allerding, Engineering Library, University of Cal. at Los Angeles, Los Angeles 24, California

New York Chapter: Margaret Carlson, Am. Cyanamid Co., 1937 West Main St., Stamford, Conn. (reports 300 members or largest group)

Washington, D. C., Chapter: Mark Panghorn, Library of U. S. Geol. Survey, Washington 25, D. C.

Illinois Chapter: Mrs. Maud Hinson, Downer's Grove, Ill.

Pittsburgh Chapter: Elizabeth B. Fry, Carnegie Steel Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Philadelphia Council Chapter: Kenneth Fagerhaugh, Rohm & Haas, Philadelphia, Pa.

Puget Sound, Milwaukee, Minnesota, Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey, Montreal, Toronto, Boston, San Francisco Bay Region, Greater St. Louis Chapters: No group breakdown.

## New Committee Chairmen Appointments

*Chemistry Section, Chairman*

Elizabeth Bowerman, Armstrong Cork Co., Lancaster, Pa.

*Punch Card Symposia and Survey, Chairman*

Francis F. Fitzgerald, Office of Quartermaster Gen., Washington, D. C.

## Translations Pool, Chairman

Mrs. Ruth H. Hooker, Naval Research Laboratory, Anacostia Station, Washington 20, D. C.

*Fact-Finding Committee for S-T Manual on Representative Technical Library Practices, Chairman*

Paula M. Strain, Naval Photographic Intelligence Center, Receiving Station, Washington 25, D. C.

## NEWS OF THE HUMAN SIDE

Librarian into:

*Mother:* Doris Kauffman Meyerhoff still keeps her active affiliation to S.L.A. through S-T Group only. A one-year-old daughter keeps her active in other directions.

*Ass't to Research V. P.:* Mr. Richard T. Everill, however, still finds time to sneak into a library for daily visits, recalling with nostalgia his chats with S.L.A. members over a smoke in the hallway of Eng. Soc. Libraries.

*Poetess:* Linnea Saderman, though Technical Librarian of Aluminum Research Labs, lapsed into lyric verse in announcing her recent engagement and forthcoming marriage.

*Marital Researcher:* Necessity for correct procedure at her wedding reception found Nancy McLaren, formerly librarian of Bureau of Ships, abandoning maritime research for Emily Post's book of Etiquette, consulted in her home-town library of Montclair, N. J.

*Beater of Swords into Plowshares:* Paula M. Strain is reorganizing the Photo Intelligence Center Library of U. S. Naval Receiving Station from a war-time operational library to a peace-time research and training intelligence center.

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We report with sadness the recent death of Miss Z. Troy, distinguished librarian for twenty years of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Yonkers, N. Y., and long an interested member of our group. Expressions of sympathy have been sent by the N. Y. S-T group to Miss Troy's mother.

★ ★ ★

Miss Elma Evans, the former S-T Chairman, has been spending some time at the hospital. We hope this finds her well on the road to recovery and her own energetic self again.

For the advertising man's conception of a Technical Librarian—a young lady with upswept hair-do and cat's eye shaped shell-rimmed glasses standing in a handsome arched doorway flanked by books—cf. sketch topping the "ad" of Diamond Alkali Co. in "Chemical Industries"—September 1946, p. 450. We are glad to see libraries becoming a "plug item" in "ads" but "view-with-alarm" what the current Broadway show, starring Helen Hayes, called "Happy Birthday," does to our reputations, especially as Newark, the locale of the play, is our own bailiwick!

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"It is my carefully considered opinion that very few of the articles published in technical journals are ever read, even by scientists, with interest or with great care, except by the authors themselves and some of their very close friends and associates—and the author's students, of course."—Wendell Johnson in "People in Quandaries," Harper Bros., 1946, p. 279 . . . . He should'a asked the Technical Librarians!

### OUR OWN INVENTOR'S COLUMN

In line with the decrease in inventions being received in the U. S. Patent Office, this column is languishing due to a dearth of inventions.

However, here's some, dug up by a mere observant visitor and not contributed by the shy inventors.  
*Signals*

The Naval Photographic Intelligence Center Library uses colored cellophane tapes to indicate subject classifications of books in a small collection. No satisfactory classification exists for the subjects being handled, so one is being devised; meantime books on the same subject are kept together on the shelves by using strips of one-half inch colored cellophane tape on the spine of the book. Three and four-color combinations are possible and the tape pulls off without harming the bindings—Paula M. Strain, Librarian, Naval Photographic Intelligence Center, Washington, D. C.

### *Topsy-Turvy World*

The recently organized New York Office Library of the Celanese Corporation of America keeps on file a great many trade and business publications in the rayon and yarn goods field which are not worth binding. These are kept in cardboard file boxes but the magazines are placed upside down in the box so that

tilting the box down and forward from the shelf by a leather pull on the top brings the magazines into correct position to remove a single issue without necessity of lifting and turning the entire box.—Bernice Krauzer, Asst. Librarian in charge, Celanese New York Office Library.

### *Reader's Privacy*

A compact privacy for each reader is achieved in the library of Ciba Pharmaceutical Corp., Summit, N. J., without recourse to individual tables, by having one long table running along and close against the wall on two sides of the room. Every four feet of the table is divided by an opaque upright division in the form of a circular segment. Each division of table surface thus forms a reading cubicle with its own fluorescent reading lamp fixed to the wall.—Mrs. F. Roberts, Chemical Librarian, Ciba Pharm. Corp., Summit, N. J.

### MUST READ, MUST GET

#### *Science Dons a Uniform*

Business Week, Sept. 14, 1946, p. 19-24.

Describes consolidation of military influence over scientific research, a circumstance that may have far-reaching effects on all our jobs.

#### *International Cooperation in Scientific Documentation*

Seidell, A.

Science, 104, Aug. 23, 1946, p. 174-5.

A union catalog of the world's research literature to be prepared by each country for its own output and amalgamated under the auspices of UNESCO is advocated as well as a single scientific documentary center to be housed in the building of the League of Nations at Geneva.

#### *Scientific Publication as Affected by War and Politics*

Fernberger, S. W.

Science, 104, Aug. 23, 1946, p. 175-7.

Using psychological publications index as the basis, the author made a statistical study of frequency—number of publications and draws a curve for 1894-1945. Decline of German Science is clearly evident and rise in English language publications up to 1939. Author concludes that systematic science cannot flourish during wartime or in a political situation without freedom of thought or security.

#### *A New Chemical Compounds Classification System*

Frear, D.E.H.; Seiferle, E. J.; King, H. L.  
Science, 104, Aug. 23, 1946, p. 177-8.

It was necessary to (a) order the compounds in such a way that an individual compound could be located in a file containing several thousand other compounds with a minimum of effort and possibility for error; (b) arrange the compounds, in so far as possible, so that related compounds would be grouped together in the file. A classification system was devised, based on "code numbers" assigned to each chemical compound. The code number for a particular compound consists of one or more group numbers, depending upon its type and complexity. These group numbers are assigned by referring to a prearranged list in which constituent chemical groupings (not necessarily functional groups) are given numerical designations. The groups are listed in decreasing order of complexity. To determine the code number for a given compound, a very simple procedure is followed. The list of constituent groups is read downward until the most complex group present in the compound is encountered. The corresponding number is noted, the perusal of the list is continued until the entire compound is coded. By the use of punch cards listing the constituent groups in each compound under study, it is possible to segregate from a collection of compounds all those having, for example, an amine group or any other constituent group whose properties it is desired to investigate.

#### *Better Titles, More Effective Publication*

Stevens, O. A.  
Science, 104, Aug. 23, 1946, p. 179-180.

Examination of library shelves shows many books which seem incorrectly catalogued. A cataloger may be misled by an inappropriate title. He cannot be intimately familiar with subject matter in various technical fields and probably is too busy to examine each book critically. Where subject matter is complicated or touches more than one area, classification becomes difficult. If the author would give special care to selection of title and phrase it so that it has an essential word as a lead, the work of the librarian and of all readers would be greatly facilitated.

#### *On the Preparation of Extensive Bibliographies*

Shaw, J. A.; Fisher, E.  
Science, 104, Aug. 23, 1946, p. 180.

The average stages of action; (1) location of a publication in an index or elsewhere; (2) exactly and legibly preparing an abstract and copying it on a card can be eliminated. A piece of sensitized photographic paper is placed face down on a printed page and held in place by a sheet of plate glass; a negative image copy of the printed words or other markings can be developed after exposure to the rays of an electric light. Positive prints can be obtained from the negative by printing in the conventional manner. A thin stock paper frequently referred to as "Reflex" printing paper frequently for about \$4.00 per 100 sheets (8½ x 11 inches) is used, averaging about 5.5 abstracts to such a page. The paper cost, including the first positive print, being about \$.007 per abstract, and the developing work, which can be turned over to unskilled labor, costs in large batches well under \$.01 per abstract. With an unshaded 150-watt lamp 30 inches above the page, an exposure of 10 seconds is usually satisfactory. Connecting the light and an electric timer in series with a foot switch greatly facilitates this operation. This means that the worker can copy a desired abstract in little more than the time it would take to put the book back on the library shelf.

#### *Science Librarianship*

Hunt, J. W.  
Science, 104, Aug., 1946, p. 171-3.

A good description of the function and duties of an administrative science librarian (in a university library) with an exposition of the training required. A graduate degree in science and knowledge of 3 languages is indicated "a must." An interesting table shows instances of how reference requests are made in inexact manner by readers and the actual correct reference as tracked down by ingenuity of the librarian. (Editor's note—"Orchids" to Miss Hunt for a very succinct and telling statement of requisites for science librarianship.)

#### *A Simple System for Reprint Filing*

Richardson, L. R.  
Science, 104, Aug. 23, 1946, p. 181-2.

A collection of reprints will rapidly outgrow any

single-entry system such as filing solely by author or solely by subject, and the minimum satisfactory system is one containing a cross index. By indexing the cards by subject, large groups can be handled in a minimum of space, and in actual practice such groups can be submitted to any desired degree of breakdown. Reprints, the larger objects, should be filed in the naturally limited author groups. All reprints are filed by author in an open-ended heavy manila envelope, 10 inches wide by 13 inches long. One card is prepared for each reprint. The card carries the ordinary reference data and is filed by subject groups along with all other references to literature. Author found it valuable to employ code signs in the upper right-hand corner of each card, indicating whether the reference is to a work included in the reprint collection, a paper in a journal in his possession, or to a work not in his possession.

*Periodical Literature of Physics—Some of Its History, Characteristics and Trends*

Roller, D.

American Journal of Physics, Sept.-Oct., 1946, p. 300-308.

*Internationality in the Names of Scientific Concepts—A Method of Naming Concepts*

Moon, P. and Spencer, D. E.

American Journal of Physics 14, Sept.-Oct., 1946, p. 285-293.

Etymology and Semantics of scientific words, mostly in physics terminology.

## A SCIENTIFIC MILESTONE

Reports the N. Y. Times Sunday Science Section in November, 1946:

"A new inexpensive system of photochemical photography by which a 20-volume encyclopedia can be reduced to the size of a pocket diary has been perfected by Phillip's Laboratories, Eindhoven, Holland. Use of Cellophane, four tenths of an inch thick and sensitized in diazonium and mercury salts, opens new perspectives in microphotography. Pictures and sound track can be printed simultaneously in the full light of sodium lamps because diazonium light sensitivity is limited to violet and ultraviolet rays. The paper can be sensitized on both sides, is completely light-proof and does not curl, therefore most suitable for reproduction of library documents."

## HELP WANTED

Idea Promoters and Suggestioners, for June, 1947, National Convention Program Topics; wanted by S-T Group Chairman. All members eligible to send in their pet topics, symposium, or program suggestions or papers to be presented. Write, phone, or apply in person to L. O. Lewton, Celanese Corp. Research Labs, Summit, N. J.—"If Winter Comes—" Shall the June Convention Be Far Behind?



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